Bank of Canada Museum

The **Bank of Canada Museum** (since July 2017), formerly known as Canada's **Currency Museum**, opened in 1980 on the ground floor of the Bank of Canada building in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Temporarily closed in 2013 for major building renovations, the museum reopened in a new space on July 1, 2017, in a new building, with a completely new design and concept. It is, however, connected to the main building through the Bank of Canada's underground conference centre.

The museum used to be the public face of the National Currency Collection, which contains over 100,000 currency-related artifacts from around the world. These include coins, banknotes, dies, plates, and engraving tools, bank and government ledgers, weights and scales, cash registers, wallets, numismatic medals and cards and examples of counterfeit money. This collection was on display until 2013, and currently, most of it is in storage and is not available to visitors.

The National Currency Collection also encompasses a library and archive, which contain over 8,500 books, pamphlets, catalogues and journals dating back to the Middle Ages.[1]:19

The Museum offers various educational programs for school groups and the general public, in both English and French.[2]

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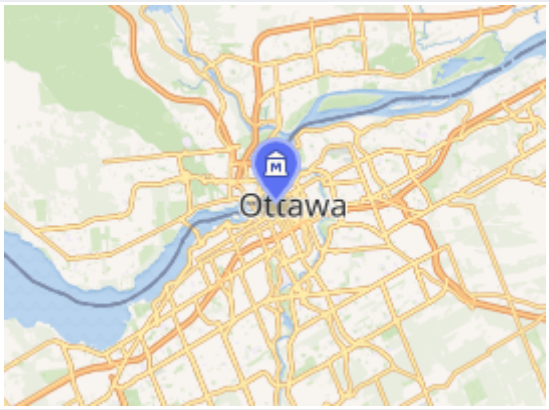
The new location of the Bank of Canada Museum (the entrance is below, on the left)



Established	1980
Location	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Coordinates	45.42088°N 75.702968°W
Website	Bank of Canada Museum (http://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/)

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History

The creation of a national currency collection was first proposed in the late 1950s by Bank Governor James Coyne.

Numismatic consultant G.R.L. Potter was hired in 1959 to help develop the collection. Under his guidance the Bank began collecting artifacts that depicted the development of Canadian currency over the previous 150 years.

By 1962 Sheldon S. Carroll had been hired as the Bank's first Curator. Governor Louis Rasminsky directed Carroll to develop as complete as possible a collection of Canadian coins, tokens and paper money. Carroll also established collections of ancient, medieval and modern foreign currency, and of artifacts related to

A rai stone, used as currency on the island of Yap, stood in the atrium of the Bank of Canada before 2013.

banking and monetary matters. The core of the Collection was assembled during this period.[1]:20

The former (until 2013) entrance to the museum (currently entrance to the Bank of Canada

Artifacts were acquired from individual collectors, private-sector firms and public agencies. The collection of J. Douglas Ferguson, perhaps the best-known Canadian numismatist of his time, was purchased in 1963. This acquisition included paper money issued during the French regime, and a selection of ancient, medieval and contemporary coins.

Another significant acquisition came in 1965 with the transfer of a large collection of coins from the Public Archives of Canada. These included the Hart Collection, which had been purchased by the Canadian government in 1883.

In 1974 the Bank purchased a large collection from the Château de Ramezay, home of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montréal, Canada's first numismatic society. This acquisition included the collection of R.W. McLachlan, Canada's leading numismatist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.[1]:27

In 1977 the Canadian Secretary of State formally designated the Bank's acquisitions as the National Currency Collection.[1]:27

The museum opened its doors to the public in the newly expanded Bank of Canada Building on December 5, 1980. On July 2, 2013, the museum was closed for four years, while the Bank of Canada building was remodelled. On July 1, 2017, it re-opened as the **Bank of Canada Museum**.[3]

Affiliations

The Museum is affiliated with CMA, CHIN, and the Virtual Museum of Canada.

References

1. Bank of Canada. (2008). *Beads to bytes : Canada's national currency collection = Si l'argent m'était conté : la collection nationale de monnaies du Canada* (https://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/beads_bytes.pdf) (PDF). [Ottawa]: Bank of Canada = Banque du Canada. ISBN 978-0-9811235-0-9. OCLC 297156182 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/297156182).
2. "National Currency Museum" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110819175616/http://www.currencymuseum.ca/home/national-currency-collection/). Bank of Canada. Archived from the original (http://www.currencymuseum.ca/home/national-currency-collection/) on 19 August 2011. Retrieved 14 July 2009.
3. "The New Building Project - The Bank of Canada Museum" (http://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/info/about/about-the-museum/new-building-project/). *Bank of Canada Museum*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170606171835/http://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/info/about/about-the-museum/new-building-project/) from the original on June 6, 2017.

External links

- History of the earliest forms currency in Canada (https://web.archive.org/web/20070715032648/http://www.currencymuseum.ca/eng/collection/index.php)
- Banknotes of Canada (http://www.currencymuseum.net/canada.htm) at Will's Online World Paper Money Gallery

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